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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Docket - File
Rm: 222
POLICY & PLANNING
BRANCH ROOM 5202

26 FEB 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

RECEIVED

MAR -9 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Bud Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dear Congressman Shuster:

This is in reply to your letter of February 10, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

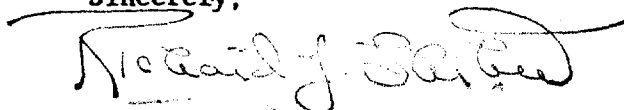
Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,



for Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:

Notice

Order

Discussion paper

cc:

Chief, PRBureau

Chief, LM&M Divison

Docket Files, Room 222

P&P Branch File (Pink)

DFertig/RShiben:/rb/lm:PR

CNTL NO - 9300593

Congressional

DUE OBC: 2-24-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/16/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300593	02/16/93	02/10/93	03/01/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Bud Shuster	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/hmm 2-17-93			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/16/93			

REMARKS: Respond to the D.C. office.

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PRIVATE
ROOM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
Washington, D.C.

February 10, 1993

Charlie Schott
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Attatched please find 11 constituent letters regarding the narrowing or splitting of radio bands. any information or advise on this metter would be greatly appreciated.

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Very Truly yours,

BUD SHUSTER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2431

EGS:tgm

PRB
92-235
593

RECEIVED
FEB 11 3 48 PM '93
PRIVATE

January 29, 1993

The Honorable Bud Shuster
U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Shuster:

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

John J. Stanley
RD #1 Box 200
Rock Hill, SC 29730

January 29, 1993

The Honorable Bud Shuster
U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

Gregory L. Johnston
John L. Johnston, Model
Aircraft Association, Inc.

January 29, 1993

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U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

Robert H. Cline
1095 R. H. Cline St.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

January 29, 1993

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U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

James H. ...
1/30/93

January 29, 1993

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U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Spaldt
Robert L. Spaldt

1705-11

January 29, 1993

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U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

William M. Smith
R.D. #1, Box 211
P.O. Box 100, Wm. 1794

January 29, 1993

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U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

Richard E. Egan
1300 Avenue 6th
Yonkers, NY 10714

January 29, 1993

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U. S. House of Reps.
Washington, DC 20515

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Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature: Bud Shuster
Bud Shuster
Member of Congress



Ted A. Lucas
1431 Moosic Drive
Chambersburg, PA 17201
January 28, 1993



The Honorable Bud Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Shuster:

I am a chemistry teacher with 26 years of experience teaching young men and women in one of our local high schools (James Buchanan High School, Mercersburg, PA). I am also an avid model aviation enthusiast who enjoys the building and flying of radio controlled model aircraft. Our local club helps young people every year by displaying model aircraft in order to stimulate interest in aviation and the related sciences.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

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frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model aircraft have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

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Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 - 76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ted A. Lucas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ted A. Lucas

February 1, 1993

The Honorable Bud Shuster
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Shuster:

I am a forty - one year old Sales Engineer, married to a nurse, with one teen-age son. My wife and I both work in order to manage to live comfortably in these economically depressed times. But the economy is not the topic which concerns me in this letter.

My son and I are involved with the hobby of model airplanes. We have radio controlled models and related radio equipment. While I have a long history of interest in aviation, I do not have the funds to be involved with full scale aircraft. This hobby allows myself and others to experience the thrill of flight at reasonable cost.

In addition we are involved with a local organization, the Frequent- C - Flyers. With this club we have involved hundreds of community people in aviation through programs for children and adults.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the frequencies currently assigned for model use. Not only will this cut into a worth while sport, but will increase the risk of accident and injury.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. The band is primarily used for private mobile dispatch. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from those used by land mobile units that we have been able to share the band without interfering with each other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result this would move many land mobile frequencies closer to the radio control ones. I am told that of the 50 frequencies now available for radio control hobbyists, only 19 frequencies would remain should these new rules be adopted.

When flying our radio controlled airplanes, we go to great lengths and expense to assure safe operation for ourselves and other. We have recently upgraded all our equipment to narrow band transmitters and receiver. This was costly, but not devastating like the proposed rules would be. The

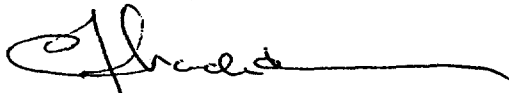
new regulations would force over crowding of the few frequencies left. This would be unsafe.

Please understand that many model planes have wing spans as big as ten feet and can weigh up to 30 or more pounds. The models can be expensive to build, or not, however more to the point, they can impart property damage and personal injury if operated with radio interference. Often flown in events with hundreds of public spectators, we are very particular about safety regulations. We need your help to assure continued safety on the radio frequencies we require.

While the FCC may not think that we are as important as business users of radios, we do provide a great value to thousands of people and indeed to industry. We contribute greatly to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry. In addition we provide an excellent sport for our children. Is this not important offer opportunity and education?

Please help promote a safe environment for our sport by NOT allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHZ band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter F. Vandewater', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter F. Vandewater

10801 FEB
FEB - 5 1993

JANUARY 29, 1993

RE: PROCKET 92-235

THE HONORABLE BOB SHUSTER

UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

I AM A VERY BIG AVIATION BUFF WHOSE ONLY WAY, AT THIS POINT, TO PARTICIPATE IS RADIO CONTROL MINIATURE AIRCRAFT. FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS I HEADED UP OUR CLUB AS VICE PRESIDENT AND SAFTY OFFICER.

IT HAS JUST BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION, THAT THE FCC IS CONSIDERING A RULES CHANGE IN THE FREQUENCIES IN THE 72-76 MHZ BAND THAT CAN, AND MOST LIKELY ^{WILL} JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR HOBBY/SPORT. OF THE 50 FREQUENCIES NOW ALLOCATED TO US ONLY 19 WILL BE LEFT IF THESE NEW RULES ARE ADOPTED.

OUR MINIATURE PLANES OFTEN WEIGH IN EXCESS OF 40 LBS. AND ROUTINELY FLY IN EXCESS OF 100 MPH. (SOME OF THE LATEST 1/6 SCALE JETS EXCEED 200.) THE ONLY LINK BETWEEN US AND OUR INVESTMENT ARE THE RADIO WAVES. THE TECHNOLOGY IS STATE OF THE ART. OUR HAND HELD TRANSMITTERS ARE MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLED, EXTREMELY RELIABLE AND IN THE 500.- TO 900.- DOLLAR RANGE. THESE PROPOSED RULES CHANGES WILL PUT PRIVATE LAND MOBILE DISPATCH OPERATIONS RIGHT ON OUR SAME FREQUENCIES.

WE AS MODELERS OF MINIATURE AIRCRAFT ARE A VERY RESPONSIBLE BUNCH. OUR CLUB REQUIRES THAT EACH MEMBER IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS (AMA). A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT AS ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS PROVIDES INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ITS MEMBERS (UP TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS). THEY ALSO SANCTION NATIONAL EVENTS SUCH AS THE TOURNAMENT OF